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Security Information

19 May 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

FROM: Deputy Director/Intelligence

SUBJECT: Comment on Substance of Draft Report Prepared
by [REDACTED] the PSB Staff, entitled
"Report on Social Science Research In Cold
War Operations."

1. Subject report in draft form contained certain figures dealing with CIA research. I have written a letter to [REDACTED] indicating that, because of long-established policy, CIA must insist upon the excision of these figures from the report.

2. Having seen this report, I feel it incumbent upon me to put on the record my views respecting its substance, as well as the impact of the recommendations made therein upon the statutory responsibilities of the Director and the Agency.

3. Briefly, [REDACTED] suggests that PSB be authorized by NSC directive to coordinate, on a Government-wide basis, all basic social science research being carried on for Governmental purposes, whether inside or outside the Government.

4. Without going into details, it appears to me that this suggestion, if adopted, would seriously conflict with the Director's statutory duty of coordinating the intelligence activities of the Government since, as is obvious (and is apparent from the report itself) basic social science research constitutes an integral part of the intelligence activities of the Government, not only in CIA but in a number of other agencies.

5. The coordination of research activities is a laudible purpose and I have been devoting a great deal of thought and effort to this problem, with particular reference to the creation of a mechanism through which it could be accomplished on a continuing basis. One of the primary difficulties in this field is the reluctance of the various other intelligence agencies to have outside direction over their research activities, which they regard as a necessary part of their individual intelligence activities. Accordingly, development will have to be made along the lines on which so much progress has been made in the coordination of substantive intelligence, namely, the creation of a committee or other joint activity under relatively strong chairmanship.

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6. I feel very strongly that the injection of PSB into this rather delicate situation at this time is not only beyond the proper function of PSB, but would also set back the progress that we are making in the intelligence field. Such progress will be reflected in improved intelligence support for the operational offices of concern to PSB.

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7. Inasmuch as the [REDACTED] report is in a draft state and may not even be presented to the PSB, there is no need for any action at this time, although I intend to have an informal chat with [REDACTED] to express my views on this subject some time in the near future. The primary purpose of this memorandum is to record my interest and concern in the subject-matter.

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[REDACTED]
Loftus E. Becker

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